

Lesson
4

Principal Parts of Verbs

Teaching

Every verb has four basic forms called its **principal parts**: the present, the present participle, the past, and the past participle. With helping verbs, these four parts make all the tenses and forms of the verb.

- I **enjoy** Mozart's music. (Present)
- I **am enjoying** this performance. (Present participle)
- I **enjoyed** past concerts. (Past)
- I **have enjoyed** his works for years. (Past participle)

The Four Principal Parts of a Verb

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
enjoy	(is) enjoying	enjoyed	(has) enjoyed
listen	(is) listening	listened	(has) listened

There are two kinds of verbs: regular and irregular.

A **regular verb** is a verb whose past and past participle are formed by adding *-ed* or *-d* to the present. The present participle is formed by adding *-ing* to the present. Spelling changes are needed in some words, for example, *carry-carried*.

Regular Verbs

Present	Present Participle	Past	Past Participle
enjoy	(is) enjoy + ing	enjoy + ed	(has) enjoy + ed

Irregular verbs are discussed in the next lesson.

Identifying Forms of Regular Verbs

Identify each underlined principal part of the verb. Write **Pres.**, **Pres. Part.**, **Past**, or **Past Part.** on the line to identify the present, present participle, past, or past participle form.

EXAMPLE The conductor has chosen the music for the concert. *Past Part.*

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed more than 600 works. _____
- The orchestra has performed dozens of them. _____
- Tonight they are playing the *Haffner Symphony*. _____
- They often present his piano sonatas. _____
- His operas feature great characterizations. _____
- Mozart died at age 35. _____
- He was buried in a pauper's grave. _____
- It is not known who commissioned Mozart's *Requiem*. _____
- Some people have suggested that Mozart wrote it for himself. _____
- The college choral group is presenting the *Requiem* at tonight's concert. _____

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More Practice

A. Identifying Forms of Regular Verbs

Identify each underlined principal part of the verb. Write **Pres.**, **Pres. Part.**, **Past**, or **Past Part.** to identify the present, present participle, past, or past participle form.

1. Rita's forgetting the book caused a delay. _____
2. The sleepy baby is making a fuss over his missing blanket. _____
3. When is the bus stopping here? _____
4. We are attempting to work the problem now. _____
5. Who in this room likes radishes? _____
6. Martha considered her schedule before making plans. _____
7. Henry played his heart out, but his team lost anyway. _____
8. We have wondered about the ending of that story. _____
9. I agree to your compromise. _____
10. They are forming a new governing board now. _____

B. Writing the Correct Forms of Verbs

Decide which form of the verb given in parentheses is needed. Write the correct form on the line.

EXAMPLE Mozart had (compose) several sonatas by age 12. *composed*

1. Critics have (praise) Mozart for his taste and technique. _____
2. We particularly (respond) to his melodies. _____
3. Mozart was (compose) music when he was five. _____
4. He first (perform) in concert from about age seven. _____
5. I am (learn) to play a song from *The Marriage of Figaro* on the piano. _____
6. I have (like) that tune since the first time I heard it. _____
7. The first audiences (love) the comedy of *Figaro* as well as the music. _____
8. The local opera company is (present) the opera this weekend. _____
9. My cousin will be (play) the part of Cherubino. _____
10. Musicians ever since Mozart's time have (imitate) him. _____

Principal Parts of Verbs

Application

B. Writing the Correct Forms of Verbs

Decide which form of the verb given in parentheses is needed. Write the correct form on the line. Then identify which form you have used. Write **Pres.**, **Pres. Part.**, **Past**, or **Past Part.** to identify the present, present participle, past, or past participle form.

EXAMPLE The traffic has (stop) at the light. stopped, Past Part.

1. The police are (question) the suspect. _____
2. The queen had (assign) the knights a difficult task. _____
3. We (paint) the house last summer. _____
4. The paint had (start) to peel. _____
5. All summer, the painters (work) on it. _____
6. Harriet was (clean) her room. _____
7. I (clean) the garage every week. _____
8. Mom (serve) tuna fish salad yesterday. _____
9. The team has (play) twice this year and has lost both times. _____
10. Who will be (face) us in the playoffs? _____

B. Supplying Verbs in the Correct Forms

Almost all the verbs other than helping verbs are missing from this paragraph. Choose the verb from the box that best completes each sentence. Be sure to use the correct verb form.

play	include	tap
die	compose	listen
travel	force	direct

Have you ever _____ to *A Little Night Music* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart? It _____ several lively melodies. The music is so cheerful that it _____ you to hum or whistle along. If you can't carry a tune, you will be _____ time to the music. The young man who _____ the music was a musical prodigy. He _____ violin and harpsichord almost as an infant, and was a composer by the age of five. As a child, he _____ all over Europe with his father and sister, giving concerts. In his teens he was _____ orchestras. Unfortunately, he _____ young, at the age of 35.